CLAIMS

1. A hyaluronic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):

10 ...(1)

wherein R is a group represented by the following formula (1)-a, -OH or -ONa,

$$CH_{2}OCOR^{1}$$
 $R^{1}CO_{2}CH$
 $CH_{2}O-P-O-CH_{2}CH_{2}NH CH_{2}O-P-O-CH_{2}CH_{2}NH-$

wherein R^1 is an alkyl group or alkenyl group having 10 to 15 28 carbon atoms,

and n is an integer of 50 to 50,000, with the proviso that 1 to 100 % of R is the group represented by the above formula (1)-a.

- 20 2. The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 300 to 30,000.
- The hyaluronic acid compound according to claim 1, wherein two R¹CO-'s in the formula (1)-a are both oleoyl groups.
 - 4. A hydrogel of the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.
- 30 5. A molded form of the hyaluronic acid compound of any

one of claims 1 to 3.

6. A joint treating material which is the hyaluronic acid compound of any one of claims 1 to 3.

5

- 7. The joint treating material according to claim 6 which has cartilage restoring ability.
- 8. Use of the hyaluronic acid compound of claim 1 as a 10 joint treating material.